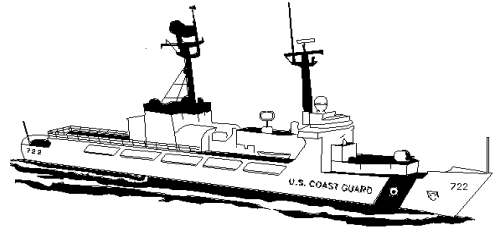


USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722)

Electronic News

16 April 2005



Greetings from USCGC MORGENTHAU, underway on the high seas! This is the fourth e-mail newsletter of our current deployment. We'll try to send these out every weekend while we're deployed. We hope this newsletter keeps you well informed of the great accomplishments and happenings of the finest ship in the fleet – USCGC MORGENTHAU.

The Week in Review. We left your last week moored in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, preparing to respond to the M/V (motor vessel) Star Eagle fire. The Star Eagle is a 700-foot bulk carrier on a trans-Pacific voyage from the U.S. west coast to Asia. Its crew was doing some welding forward on a cargo hold bulkhead (wall), and the pressed wood chips on the other side of the bulkhead caught fire. The Coast Guard diverted the ship to anchor in Dutch Harbor. MORGENTHAU followed the ship into port and moored last Sunday afternoon to assist. We hosted a command and control meeting onboard between the local fire department, the local Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment, Resolve Marine Group (the contractor hired by the shipping company to assist), and our firefighting experts.

We spent Monday coordinating and consulting. LT Greg Tozzi (Engineer Officer), ENS Todd DeVries (Damage Control Assistant) and DCC Andy Sweeney (Damage Control Division Chief) spent most of the day aboard the Star Eagle, meeting with agency personnel and planning the response. The ship had been pumping CO2 into its hold for quite a number of days, and the hope was that by the time the hold was accessed for inspection, the fire will have been out. Our team completed full assessments in the morning and again early evening, and laid out a fire response plan that included sending four of our fully certified fire teams to the ship on Tuesday. We spent the rest of Monday staging equipment to transport to the Star Eagle, including breathing apparatus ensembles, pumps, and hoses.

Tuesday was "go time." An assessment in the morning determined that the fire was probably out. Given that inspection, the Star Eagle moved from anchorage to a wharf in the port of Dutch Harbor. We met them there. Our fire teams partnered with the local Fire Department and Resolve Marine Group and staged aboard the ship, ready to respond in case the fire was not out and, in the worst-case scenario, erupted into an inferno once oxygen was reintroduced into the space. The plan was executed flawlessly. First, a small access hatch was slightly opened to drop atmospheric testing equipment into the hold and to see if there was a vacuum in the hold (indicative of oxygen being consumed). That testing was encouraging: There was no vacuum and atmospheric tests were good. Next, the entire cargo hatch was lifted up very slightly by the ship's crane assembly to see if the fire would reflash; it did not. Finally, the cargo hatch was removed entirely to survey the damage. The fire was in fact out, and had been contained in the immediate vicinity of the welding work. Quite a bit of cargo was damaged, but the shipping company could salvage most of it and get it to market. Relieved, our fire teams packed up, trucked our equipment back to MORGENTHAU and spent the rest of the early evening unloading and restowing.

We received a very kind message from the Marine Safety Detachment in Unalaska, Alaska about our response: "I would like to extend my utmost appreciation to CAPT Sullivan and the crew of CGC MORGENTHAU for assisting the Unalaska Fire Dept, MSD Unalaska personnel and the Resolve Marine Group during the mission aboard the M/V Star Eagle. The CGC MORGENTHAU provided an unprecedented level of shipboard firefighting expertise, personnel, equipment and professionalism that is in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Coast Guard." MORGENTHAU then put to sea Tuesday evening and continued our deployment. We recovered our helicopter right outside the harbor (our helicopter stages out of the local airport while we're inport, so it can be used for search and rescue cases).

Wednesday was exciting. We flew two helo sorties in the morning, locating the fishing fleet and possible boarding opportunities. We participated in a one-of-a-kind communications, command and control interoperability exercise with the U.S. Air Force. We successfully linked a data communications stream with a circling AWACS aircraft, providing real-time targeting to and from our ship. We also served as a "target" for the Air Force to locate using sensors alone; they did locate us. And the F15s that located us also served as "targets" for us, allowing us to lock on and test our weapons tracking systems. They did just fine. Our two embarked Air Force technicians were a significant help in establishing the communications links. And, of course, the F15s requested a fly-by, and we were actually tempted to radio, "negative, Ghost Rider, the pattern is full." But we didn't – we said "come on by!" and took some incredible photos of the run. Seas were good to

us on Wednesday, though winds picked up by night to near gale-force as a low pressure cell crossed our area. We also spent training time Wednesday covering annual medical training, given by HSC Rebecca Vinlove to our entire crew over the closed-circuit TV system, as well as weekly law enforce training for our boarding teams.

Thursday was equally as busy. Our helicopter developed a small crack (again) in its engine anti-icing shield, so our Aviation Detachment logged many hours repairing the crack. We didn't fly that day but did head out to a quiet area and conducted a major gunnery exercise. Our CIWS (close-in weapons system) performed flawlessly, thanks to the leadership of ETC Dave Holder, senior technicians ET2 Mike Prewitt, ET2 Jason Hutts and ET2 Adrian Campbell, and techs ET3 Leon Sisson, ET3 John Dismuke and ET3 Scott Finstad. We also successfully shot the heck out of a 55-gallon barrel, using our 25-millimeter and 50-caliber machine guns, under the leadership of GMC Steve Speck, GM1 Eric Lange and GM1 John Kelly. Our helicopter became FMC (fully mission capable) Thursday evening, and our Damage Control Division conducted advanced firefighting team training.

MORGENTHAU conducted two back-to-back flights Friday morning and located some boarding candidates; we boarded two fishing boats to check their compliance with federal/state fishing regulations, led by GM1 John Kelly and ET2 Greg Meyer. We had all-hands training on the Coast Guard advancement system, delivered by YNC Bill Hilby, and held duty section selection lotteries for our next inport, where our duty section members select their desired duty days. In the afternoon we conducted one additional boarding, led by YNC Bill Hilby and ENS Steve Arnwine. Our engineers conducted nearly four hours of engineering casualty control drills and training, all coordinated by CWO2 Matt Gans. And seas were beautiful on Friday with nearly flat-calm seas and no wind – quite a rare sight in the Bering Sea this time of year. Our deck force held a Seamanship Olympics in the afternoon, opening up competition not just to deck force but the entire crew and featuring events such as splicing line and throwing heaving lines. SNBM Caleb Paramo won hands down, followed by runners up SA Matt Lazowski and SN Richard Spicer.

The ship is required to certify in night vision goggle flight operations every six months, and we were coming due soon. Saturday was a very early morning, rolling out our helicopter from its hangar at 0500 and setting flight quarters at 0600, well before sunrise. This time of year, this far north, the sun rises around 0745 and sets at 2230 (10:30 p.m.). We conducted a very solid, safe set of take off and landing evolutions, all with just about no light on the flight deck except for very faint deck illumination lights. All key players wore night vision goggles, including the pilots, LT Brian Glander and LT Winston Wood, and our Landing Signals Officers, LTjg Morgan Brown and ETC David Holder. Flight ops went without a hitch and we finished over twenty evolutions prior to dawn.

We had planned "Hump Day" activities for Monday, but our diversion to the M/V Star Eagle fire changed those plans. Our Morale Committee rescheduled events for Saturday (today) then and we had a great day at sea. The ship followed the Underway Holiday Routine and took it easy. We anchored in the late morning, had fish call, and conducted our all-hands quarters (meeting) to say goodbye to shipmates departing soon to new duty stations. In the afternoon LTjg Leslie Kagami led three extremely funny morale events: a cake eating contest (won by FN Manuel Ontiveros), an arm wrestling contest (won by GM2 Bill Leon) and a "Chubby Bunny" contest – stuffing marshmallows into one's mouth, one at a time, saying those words each time until you can no longer speak articulately. ENS Piero Pecora won, only one marshmallow ahead of runner up SK3 Mike Simonetti. Our officers will be serving the crew dinner tonight and have been slaving over a hot grill all afternoon; eighteen of our highest performing crewmembers will dine in the wardroom, served by the XO and Department Heads. We plan to weigh anchor later this evening and resume our patrol.

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Recently MORGENTHAU elected its Sailor of the Quarter and Runner up Sailor of the Quarter. Crewmembers are nominated by their peers and the top performers for each quarter are selected by the Chief's Mess. This quarter's runner up was DC2 Victor Regalado. In an interview with the Morale Officer, he had the following comments:

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A: Well I'm Hispanic, but my birth certificate says I am white. I deny it all.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Born in the East LA. Raised in Houston Texas, but actually made in Mexico.

Q: And your parents? Where are they?

A: They live in Texas, but were born and raised in Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Q: Why did you join the Coast Guard?

A: Because it is easier to ride on the boat than to swim.

Q: What has been your career path?

A: I used to be a Marine but decided that the Coast Guard was the way for me. I'm now a second class DC.

Q: What do you like/dislike about being in the Coast Guard or being underway?

A: There is nothing not to like, but I do dislike the fact that my Sombrero was taken away when I reported to the MORGENTHAU.

Q: Anything you would like to add?

A: This is my last patrol; it's time to be with my wife and enjoy my kids growing up.

This quarter's winner was SN Christopher Kuhr. He was recognized at quarters by the Captain and crew for all his accomplishments and achievements onboard, and awarded the Commandant's Letter of Commendation for all of his hard work. He had the following comments:

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your family.

A: I am from the Bay Area and my foster parents (Terri and Chris Campoy) live in the Bay Area, 50 miles north of San Francisco. I have lived with them since I was 12 years old.

Q: Why did you join the Coast Guard?

A: I joined the Coast Guard because my foster parents found the website. My foster parents thought this would be the best thing for me to do, since I was just "getting by" and not really motivated with my life. I was a certified First Responder/ EMT and at the time and was curious about law enforcement so I started to do a little bit of research on the Coast Guard. I talked to my friend's Dad who was a Fireman and he said he loved the Coast Guard. He was stationed up in Bodega Bay, and he had some stories!!! So I left his house, called the recruiter in San Leandro, and here I am!

Q: What has been your career path?

A: I have been really involved with law enforcement on the MORGENTHAU. I am still undecided if I want to stay in for twenty years or get out and try civilian law enforcement. I am still up in the air about it. I do know that if I stay in the Coast Guard, I definitely want to go to Officer Candidate School.

Q: What do you like/dislike about being in the Coast Guard or being underway?

A: I really like the Coast Guard because of its history and it's a really great job! Sometimes when I am driving the small boat I wonder: I can't believe Uncle Sam pays me to do this! There is a lot of job satisfaction for me being here, there are so many opportunities available for anyone who will put forth the effort. Underway is a little rough not being able to see your family and loved ones, but the people on the ship are your family or "shipmates" as some of us call it! Regardless when we steam away from Alameda we have a mission to do AND we do it flawlessly. DECUS PACIFIC!!

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From the Bridge: Greetings once again. It seems this week has literally flown by. It helps that we've been very busy. It also helps that we've been involved in a wide variety of missions, from Search and Rescue, firefighting, law enforcement boardings, flight operations, a gunnery exercise, and a relaxing (albeit late) celebration of "Hump Day." Your shipmates onboard continue to routinely display a rare combination of pride, professionalism, and dedication in all that they do - from the routine, daily chores to the unique and exciting. I am truly honored to call them shipmates, and you have every reason to be proud of each and every one of them. Best regards, Captain Sullivan.

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Crew recognition this week:

- FN Timothy Anderson was certified Engineering Auxiliary Watchstander
- ENS Steve Arnwine was certified as Underway Officer of the Deck
- ENS Steve Arnwine was awarded the Temporary Cutterman's Insignia
- EM2 Jason Barnick was certified as Engineering Throttleman
- BM1 Karl Beeman received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- BM1 Karl Beeman is above the cut on the May 2004 Service-wide Exam and will advance to BMC
- OS1 Dale Bogardus is above the cut on the May 2004 Service-wide Exam and will advance to OSC
- OS3 Jeremy Borja was certified as Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch
- OS3 Jeremy Borja was certified as CIC Watchstander
- OS1 Jeffrey Bouche received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- SKC Phillip Boudreau received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- SKC Phillip Boudreau received a second Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- SK1 Brent Buchholz received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- SK1 Brent Buchholz received a second Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- OS3 Brandon Debetham was certified Radio Watchstander
- LTJG Arthur Dehnz received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon

- CDR Mark Dietrich received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- EM1 Joseph Donovan was awarded the Permanent Cutterman's Insignia
- FN Jessica Garay was awarded the Temporary Cutterman's Insignia
- SN Richard Gentry advanced to Seaman, U.S. Coast Guard
- EMC Alan Gieb was awarded the Permanent Cutterman's Insignia
- EMC Alan Gieb received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- ENS Elizabeth Gillis was certified as Inport Officer of the Deck
- Master Sargent Arthur Gow reported aboard TAD from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska
- BM1 Jeffrey Hamilton was certified as Boat Coxswain
- YNC William Hilby received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- ETC David Holder received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- LTJG Ian Hurst received the Coast Guard Achievement Medal
- OS2 Mark Jenkins was awarded the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon
- SN Christopher Kuhr was awarded MORGENTHAU Sailor of the Quarter (1st qtr CY 2005)
- SN Christopher Kuhr received the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon
- BMC Thomas Larson received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- FSCS Randall Litka received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- FN Brent Mansell was certified as an Engineering Auxiliary Watchstander
- CWO2 Michael Mullen received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- SNBM Caleb Paramo was certified as Underway Boatswain's Mate of the Watch
- ET2 Michael Prewitt received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- IT1 Aubrey Quinones received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- DC2 Victor Regalado received 1st runner up in MORGENTHAU's Sailor of the Quarter
- MKCS Aaron Relford is above the cut on the May 2004 Service-wide Exam and will advance to MKCM
- Staff Sargent Michael Reyour reported aboard TAD from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska
- MK2 Jesse Ridgeway was certified as Engineering Auxiliary Watchstander
- FS1 Michael Simpson received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- ET3 Leon Sisson was awarded the Temporary Cutterman's Insignia
- OS3 Brian Soto was certified as Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch
- DCC Andrew Sweeney received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- LT Greg Tozzi received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- CWO2 Gustavo Tyler received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- CWO2 Gustavo Tyler received a second Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- HSC Rebecca Vinlove received the Coast Guard Team Commendation Ribbon
- DC3 John White was awarded the Temporary Cutterman's Insignia

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Birthdays this week:

- SK2 Ronald Shaw, 10 April
- SN Richard Spicer, 10 April
- MK2 Brandon Poulter, 13 April
- HSC Rebecca Vinlove, 14 April
- DC2 Victor Regalado, 14 April
- BM2 Sean McMullen, 16 April

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Personal greetings from our crew to our family and friends:

- OS3 James Bacon sends: "To my wife, Crystal: I love you and I will be home with you soon."
- LTJg Morgan Brown sends: "Hi Mom and Larry. Good luck moving into the new house. I wish I could be there to help! I love you both and will see you soon."
- ET2 Adrian Campbell sends: "Hey Dad, Eric, Steve and Nette! The patrol is going great, and I hope to make it on the 4th of July! I'll keep you all posted. Love you all!"
- LTJg Walt Daniel sends: "Moani, I love you and see you soon. Tell the family I said hello."
- CDR Mark Dietrich sends: "Hey kids, see you very very soon – can't wait to see John's game. I love you all!"
- FSC Scott Doorgeest sends: "Renee, Kristina, Reese...Miss you very much! Tell everyone I said HI. Almost off to CPO Academy and I'll call you soon. Love you guys very much!"
- ET3 Scott Finstad sends: "Hey Dad, Eric, Steve and Nette! The patrol is going great, and I hope to make it on the 4th of July! I'll keep you all posted. Love you all!"
- LT Mike Fisher sends: "MOSAIC CG, greetings from the Bering Sea! Hello Mom, Dad, Kristin, Kelli, Matt and Cameryn – Michael"

- CWO2 Matt Gans sends: "Peaches: your Boo is coming home soon, I am so very proud of you!"
- EMC Alan Gieb sends: "Donna, Hey sis, love ya! MRG LUV & MISS YOU!!!! AKG. Mocha, Coconut, Hazelnut & Filbert: Daddy misses you!"
- BM1 Jeff Hamilton sends: "To Tiki: I love you as much as the ocean is deep; it is you I think of when I sleep. I love you and miss you. To Ollie Dog and Matilda Jean: Bad Mud Puppies, Bad Dogs, Bad Dogs. Just wait until I come home! You're gonna get it!"
- To M&D Hamilton: All's well on the northern front. Tiki's fine and doing well. Love you and talk to you soonest. (P.S. Do you guys want a puppy? Tiki will give you one. Free.)
- GM1 Eric Lange sends: "Amber: I love you and can't wait to get home! Kathy & Louie: Tell everyone back at the home front that I love them and miss them! Love ya, Eric"
- DC3 Dave Martin sends: "Cassandra: Always remember that I love you with all my heart and I can't wait to spend the summer with you!! Save all your kisses and hugs for me!!"
- ET2 Greg Meyer sends: "Tamara, I just remembered, I think I left the iron on my room, could you do me a favor and turn it off. Thanks."
- YN3 Alex Miranda sends: "Donya, I miss you, my Beautiful! I will be home soon. Dad, I hope that you are feeling better. I can't wait to see you two!!"
- SN Matt Morin sends: "I love you, Babe and I miss you lots. I can't wait to be home with you!! Love, Taxman."
- CWO2 Mike Mullen sends: "Baby, have a Happy Birthday -- I love you!"
- ET2 Jeff Nelson sends: "Hey, Baby! I love you! I'll see you soon!"
- DC2 Vic Regalado sends: "To my wife: I miss you very much and I love you. To my daughters: Papi will be home soon. Miss you."
- OS3 Brian Soto sends: "Want to say 'I love you' to my wife, Nadia, parents and to my father-in-law and mother-in-law; I'll be home soon."
- SNBM Raquel Spear sends: "Mom and Dad, everything's all right."

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We hope you enjoy these action shots of our crew, taken over the past week:



All smiles because finally, we're doing a boarding with the temperature above freezing: LTjg Ian Hurst, CWO2 Mike Mullen, ENS Steve Arnwine



MK3 Justin Crabb glances at the M/V Star Eagle aboard our small boat, escorting the vessel into harbor



Fire team members listen to the planning/safety briefing: YN3 Alex Miranda, GM1 Bill Kelly, EM3 Taran Benavente, MK2 Erik Romani, MK3 Ed Prince, BM3 Jason Roberts



DCC Andy Sweeney and DC3 Dave Martin discuss fire party staging with Resolve Marine Group's Vice President, Todd Duke



Our crew staging equipment aboard the M/V Star Eagle: DC3 Andrea Cooper, MK2 Bret Steinle, DC3 John White, YN3 Alex Miranda, DC2 Vic Regalado



MORGENTHAU's fire response team for the M/V Star Eagle fire. We provided four fire hose teams for the response.



FN Tim Anderson and MK2 Jesse Ridgeway prepare for accessing the M/V Star Eagle's cargo hold.



Fire teams open the access hatch, testing the cargo hold's atmosphere for signs of an active fire.



Charred cargo in the hold. The fire was generally confined to this corner of the hold, but this hold is 30 feet deep with cargo.



Resolve Marine Group's Frank and Todd with LTjg Morgan Brown, LT Greg Tozzi, CDR Mark Dietrich



Our fire team in the hold of the M/V Star Eagle



Some of the damaged compressed wood chips



A USAF F-15 gives us a fly-by



We sighted a pod of 30-40 killer whales late this week, swimming right past the ship



Our helo took this amazing picture of the ship



LTjg Ian Hurst receiving the Coast Guard Achievement Medal prior to his PCS departure, en route to flight school.



Gun crew on the 25mm gun mount



Trying to sink that barrel!



SN Chris Kuhr is completely surprised with his selection as Sailor of the Quarter, and being awarded the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon



Boarding Team Hams: GM1 Bill Kelly, SN Chris Kuhr, SK3 Mike Simonetti, ET2 Greg Meyer, ET3 Brandon Hewitt, SN Robert Cook, OS2 Carlos Evans



A flock of seagulls (a band better than Berlin) surrounds an Alaskan fishing boat that we're boarding



A fishing boat hauls in its trawl, with MORGENTHAU in the background



FN Manuel Ontiveros, Cake Eating Contest Winner



ENS Piero Pecora and OS3 Kim Hawkins in the "Chubby Bunny" marshmallow articulation contest.



Strong man GM2 Bill Leon (right) wins the arm wrestling competition, crushing ET2 James Briggs in the defeat of the century.



MK2 Brandon Poulter in main control, manning the board as Throttleman.

We'll stay safe here on the high seas – you stay safe, too, there at home. We miss you all.

Best regards,

The Officers, Chiefs and Crew of
USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722)
"Decus Pacifici – Pride of the Pacific"

Visit us at:

<http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/morgenthau>

